

Dear Stakeholder:

As you probably know by now, the ADHS has been working on a study that examines newborn thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) levels in Yuma and Flagstaff.

Yuma and Flagstaff were chosen because 100% of the water treated and delivered in Yuma is from the Colorado River, which contains between 4 and 9 ppb of perchlorate. Flagstaff has no detectable perchlorate in its water supply. TSH was examined because the thyroid is the main target organ of perchlorate, and because TSH data are available in our newborn screening database.

The study found that TSH levels were slightly higher in Yuma than in Flagstaff, suggesting an association between drinking water containing perchlorate and changes in newborn thyroid function. Please note that an association does not mean that the study establishes cause and effect. While the study found a difference in laboratory values, we did not find any association between higher TSH values in Yuma and thyroid disease.

Ross J. Brechner M.D., M.P.H., the primary author of the study, has accepted an invitation by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) to present the paper at their annual meeting in Denver next week. Dr. Brechner will be presenting the paper on Thursday, June 15 at 8:00 a.m. The study will be published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine later this summer.

The ADHS has prepared the attached information sheet in an effort to better prepare and inform those organizations that have an interest in this issue. The attached information sheets are in both WordPerfect and Word format. You will find that the WordPerfect version is more pleasing to the eye, but both have the same information.

There may also be some media coverage of the study results prior to the AWWA conference. The ADHS will respond to any media question and questions from the public regarding the study results. Dr. Brechner can accept calls at 602.542.1216. Will Humble can be reached at 602.230.5948.

The study does not suggest that drinking treated water from the Colorado River or CAP presents a health risk. The levels of perchlorate in the river and the CAP are less than our Health Based Guidance Level of 14 ug/L. Rather, the study suggests that additional studies should be considered to further investigate the results.

We hope you find the attached information helpful. Also, feel free to refer any calls that you feel uncomfortable answering to us at the numbers above.

Sincerely,

Will Humble

Ross Brechner, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.